

North Star Teacher Named to State Education Board

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Jay Barrett - Erik Wander /KMXT

North Star teacher Janel Keplinger has been named to the State Board of Education and Early Development.

Keplinger will hold a public-at-large seat for a term of five years, effective March 1. The seat was formerly held by Sylvia Reynolds.

State Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux, who was once principal of North Star School, described Keplinger as a caring educator who will bring a wealth of experience to the state school board. Now Keplinger will technically be one of LeDoux's bosses, as the state board appoints the Commissioner of Education and Early Development, subject to approval of the Governor.

Keplinger said she saw an opportunity to represent the needs and interests of Kodiak education in the open seat.

-- (Keplinger 1 43 sec. "I just thought that ... pre-school through high school.")

She said she looks forward to serving on the state board and has contributions to make, but

that there could be a learning curve, since she hasn't served at the state level before.

-- (Keplinger 2 14 sec. "This is fairly new to me ... information I can add to that.")

Keplinger

has been a teacher for 26 years, including being a resource teacher at Main Elementary and a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at East. She holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the Oregon College of Education, and a master of arts degree in special education from the University of Northern Colorado.

The State

Board of Education and Early Development consists of seven voting members, a military adviser and a student adviser. The voting members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by a majority of the legislature. They serve staggered five-year terms.

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